**Chapter 7-8 Vocabulary**

1. **severe**

*very bad in degree or extent*

He was in severe shock and suffering from third-degree burns.

2. **bleak**

*offering little or no hope*

Soda was awake by then, and although he looked stony-faced, as if he hadn’t heard a word the doctor had said, his eyes were bleak and stunned.

3. **mourn**

*feel sadness*

After my shower, I put on some clean clothes and spent five minutes or so hunting for a hint of beard on my face and mourning over my hair.

4. **delinquent**

*a young offender*

On the front page of the second section was the headline: JUVENILE DELINQUENTS TURN HEROES.

5. **recurring**

*coming back*

Soda began sleeping with me, and it stopped recurring so often, but it happened often enough for Darry to take me to a doctor.

6. **exploit**

*1. n. a notable achievement, 2. verb. to take advantage of someone or something*

“. . . anyway, I was walking around downtown and started to take this short cut through an alley”—Two-Bit was telling me about one of his many exploits while we did the dishes.

7. **outcast**

*a person who is rejected (from society or home)*

Moral: What’s the safest thing to be when one is met by a gang of social outcasts in an alley?

8. **critical**

*being in or verging on a state of crisis or emergency*

The nurses wouldn't let us see Johnny. He was in critical condition.

9. **falter**

*speak haltingly*

“I won’t be able to walk again,” Johnny started, then faltered. “Not even on crutches. Busted my back.”

10. **ornery**

*having a difficult and contrary disposition*

Dally was his usual mean, ornery self.

11. **debate**

*think about carefully; weigh*

“We just left him,” Two-Bit said, and I could tell that he was debating whether to tell Dally the truth or not.

A debate usually takes place between two or more people who discuss the reasons for or against something. But here, Two-Bit is debating with himself.

12. **deny**

*declare untrue; contradict*

Two-Bit couldn’t deny this, so I went on: “I mean, I got an awful feeling something’s gonna happen.”

13. **scarce**

*deficient in quantity or number compared with the demand*

You’re a nice kid, Ponyboy. Do you realize how scarce nice kids are nowadays?